



**NRC #1162982, CR251 - Colonial Gasoline Pipeline
Fire, Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama**

Situation Report #1
0700, November 1, 2016

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

On October 31, 2016 at 1455 hours a Colonial Pipeline contractor struck a 36" below ground transmission gasoline pipeline while unearthing threaded O-rings (TOR) for rendering the line inert. This operations was necessary to install a permanent repair required by the previous pipeline rupture on September 9, 2016. The gasoline pipeline exploded and caught fire. At 1656 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported the incident to the National Response Center. One worker was fatally injured and six workers were transported to local hospitals.

The exact amount of the release is unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline has estimated that 4,000 barrels of gasoline were released. Both main pipelines were shut down. The Shelby County Fire Department responded and contained the fire around the spill site. The Alabama Forestry Commission and Shelby County Highway Department constructed an earthen berm to contain the gasoline and cut a fire break. The fire continues to burn at this time. Line 2 (the unimpacted line) was restarted at 2250 hours at a reduced rate.

The incident occurred near a man-made pond located approximately 0.75 miles to the southeast. Discharge from the pond travels another 0.25 miles southeast to the Cahaba River. Also, Shades Creek is located approximately 0.65 miles northwest of the incident and is a tributary of the Cahaba River. Contractors for Colonial Pipeline have established containment boom at 3.5 miles and 7 miles downstream in the Cahaba River and are currently assessing Shades Creek.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Shelby County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Interior (DOI) Region 4, have been notified. EPA, ADEM, Colonial Pipeline, and local emergency responders are on scene and have integrated into the Unified Command.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Rick Jardine deployed from Birmingham, Alabama, and was the first federal official on-scene. OSC Karen Buerki deployed from Atlanta, Georgia, to the Incident Command Post and has integrated into the Unified Command. US Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team (USCG GST) and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) personnel were deployed to the incident.

Current number of EPA personnel assigned: 2

Current number of USCG GST personnel assigned: 4

Current number of START personnel assigned: 2

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will be delivered daily at 1600 hours EST.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

- Local fire personnel monitor the fire as it continues to burn. There are four homes located northwest and southeast of the spill area. Residents from the home located southeast of the spill area evacuated. The residents in two of the three homes located northwest of the spill area evacuated and one remained in place. Local fire personnel will continue to monitor the fire in the event those residents need evacuation.
- CTEH continued performing mobile air monitoring throughout the populated areas along the northern perimeter of the spill area. Air monitoring results indicated no detections above background levels. CTEH developed an area air sampling plan for approval.
- Colonial Pipeline contractor began preparing a water and sediment sampling plan, as well as, performing a natural resources damage assessment (NRDA).
- Shelby County EMA requested the Shelby County Sheriff Department restrict the air space (3,000 feet above and a 3 mile radius) around the incident area until 1000 hours on November 1, 2016. The air space restriction was further extended until 1000 hours on November 2, 2016.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- Continue efforts to evacuate the pipeline and excavate threaded O-rings (TOR).
- Complete installation of booms in Shades Creek, Living River, and Cahaba River.
- Complete installation of interceptor trench and underflow dam in pond southeast of the spill area.
- Complete preparation of the Product Disposal Plan (PDP).
- Complete staging area set up.
- Prepare for VIP visit from Congressman Gary Palmer.
- Continue air monitoring and sampling through CTEH.
- Begin water and sediment sampling.
- Conduct aerial surveillance via drone.
- Continue to improve site communications via Communication-Sites-on-Wheels (COWs).
- Complete preparation of the Restoration of Services Plan (RSP).
- Continue preparation for media release.